

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05
CIAE-00 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 L-01 PRS-01 USIA-01 SP-02
/051 W

-----089861 050504Z /62

R 041633Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5254
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T NATO 07535

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, BE
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF THE BELGIAN HAWK ISSUE

REF: USNATO 6165 (DTG 282020Z JUN 77)

1. AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (I.S.)
HAS BEEN DISCUSSING BELGIUM'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM
THE HAWK BELT WITH GOB OFFICIALS DURING THE LAST MONTH.
AS REPORTED REFTEL, SHAPE AND THE I.S. HAVE DEVELOPED
VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR THE GOB'S CONSIDERATION IN AN EFFORT
TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE GOING, WHILE STRESSING THE POLITICAL
AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE OF BELGIAN
WITHDRAWAL.

2. I.S. DIRECTOR FOR FORCE PLANNING (BRABAND) HAS TOLD
US ON A "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL" BASIS, THAT, AS A RESULT OF
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SYG LUNS' RECENT MEETING (26 JULY) WITH MOD VANDEN
BOEYNANTS, THE MOD'S OFFICE WAS IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH RAYTAS (RAYTHEON) FOR AN IMPROVED HAWK PACKAGE OF
6-8 BATTERIES. BRABAND SAID HE WAS "VERY HOPEFUL" FOR A
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, AND SPECULATED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD
POSSIBILITY THAT VANDEN BOEYNANTS WOULD PRESENT THE
FINANCIAL DATA (FYI: OPTION SPREAD OF \$80-100 MILLION

END FYI) TO THE BELGIAN CABINET DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER. BRABAND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF GUARDING AGAINST ANY "PREMATURE LEAKS" OF THIS INFORMATION THAT COULD THWART VANDEN BOEYNANTS' ATTEMPT TO PRESENT A THOROUGHLY STAFFED PROPOSAL TO HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES WITHOUT THE GLARE OF PUBLICITY.

3. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOB IS APPARENTLY INTERESTED IN A DEAL THAT COULD BE FUNDED OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD, IS ABLE TO HANDLE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN WITHOUT ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS PLANNED DEFENSE PROGRAM AND WOULD BE READY TO GO TO CONTRACT SHORTLY AFTER THE CABINET MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. THOUGH SOME EYEBROWS WERE RAISED WHEN SHAPE INCLUDED THE HIGH-COST HAWK ISSUE AS A SHORT-TERM MEASURE UNDER THE NATO INITIATIVES, WE BELIEVE IT HAS SERVED TO KEEP THE QUESTION ALIVE WITHIN THE BELGIAN HIERARCHY WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT THE ALLIANCE EXPECTS AN ANSWER WHEN NATIONS REPORT ON THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES THIS FALL. END FYI. PEREZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO07535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770895/aaaadckt.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 9d0a7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 USNATO 6165 (DTG 282020Z JUN 77)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1704399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF THE BELGIAN HAWK ISSUE
TAGS: MPOL, BE, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d0a7061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009